

THE GRAPEVINE

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The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Yountville Veterans Home

April 28, 2011

2011 Founders Day - 127 years of Serving Veterans

By Jody Price, Public Information Officer

On Tuesday, April 12, 2011 the Veterans Home of California, Yountville celebrated its 127th year of serving Veterans.

The "Hills Angels" wheelchair drill team did an outstanding job welcoming the crowd with a performance at the beginning of the ceremony. Welcoming remarks were made by Administrator, Marcella McCormack and Allied Council, Lois Printz. On behalf of the California Veterans Foundation, Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Heims gave an update on what has been purchased and what may be needed in the future. The VVA 702 (Vietnam Veterans) gave



a heartfelt presentation thanking Walter Kirby for all of his hard work and dedication to his fellow Veterans. (photo at left)

And now for the moment that everyone is waiting for ... The induction into the Hall of Fame. This is an incredible honor as the Staff and Residents nominate who they feel has gone above and beyond the call of duty for the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. Tillie Crossman (photo below), former Chief of Post Fund



Enterprises (PFE) was the chosen one this year. Tillie started her career at the Veterans Home of California, on June 30, 1965 at the young age of 18. Her first assignment was clerk in the "Store" which is now the Creative Arts Building. Back in 1965, the home did not have a

Base Exchange store like it does today. PFE was responsible for providing a "Store" like atmosphere with the goods that the Residents needed most. As Tillie grew into her job, PFE grew with her. Many new enterprises were added to PFE to improve the quality of life for the Residents. That was really Tillie's main focus. The Residents of the Veterans Home. Tillie worked many, many hours to assure that the new enterprises complied with State regulations and the needs of the Residents were being met. With this responsibility, Tillie made sure that she had the qualifications needed to do the necessary paper work which included payroll and the insurance and benefits for the PFE employees. While Tillie was the Assistant Chief of PFE she trained three PFE Chiefs. It was an easy decision when the opportunity arose for Tillie to be in charge. As Chief, Tillie man-



aged with a firm hand, but always with a gentle heart and an incredible sense of humor. Tillie has dedicated more than ¾ of her life to the Veterans Home and its Residents, 44 years to be exact. Tillie will always be in our hearts and part of this home. She remains "on call" as a Registered Volunteer, in case we need her knowledge and assistance.

After many tears of happiness we moved on to the performance by the Soldiers Story Band. This is a group of 3 men and 1 woman that read actual letters from Soldiers while serving their country to music. It was a wonderful time to reflect on our history and honor our Veterans.



Founder's Day would not be complete without the traditional Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Korean War Veterans. It was great to see all of the Residents enjoy a scoop of ice cream and have a few laughs.

The Staff of the Veterans Home of California, Yountville; will continue to serve our Veterans for many, many more years with pride.



Employee Recognitions

Recently a number of Veterans Home employees were awarded for their service to the Home. The rewards featured here are in two forms - 125th Anniversary Coins and Employee of the Quarter Certificate of Recognition.

125th Anniversary Coin recipients



Marcella McCormack, Administrator; Elaine Trujillo, Director of Nursing; Sherry Wimmings, SRN; Maria Guzman, LVN; Julie Siacuno, Ward Clerk; Deanna Kennedy, RN; Stan Jones, SNG Administrator



Bill Hargis, Chief, Plant Operations III; Lynn Johnson, Accounting Administrator I Supervisor; Patsy Potter, Acting Chief, Human Resources; Marcella McCormack, Administrator



Marcella McCormack, Administrator; Laurie Joyce, Occupational Therapist; Stan Jones, SNF Administrator



Marcella McCormack, Administrator; Tim Luce, Sanitation Supervisor III; Shirley Grubbs, HGS Office Tech; Kathy Badzik, Acting Deputy Administrator

Employee of the Quarter recipients



Marcella McCormack, Administrator; Micaela "Mikki" Parra, Food Service Technician II, Dietary & Food Service; Pat Schultz, Assistant Director of Dietary



Marcella McCormack, Administrator; Priscella Payne, Personal Care Assistant/Hospital Worker, RCFE; Kathy Pullium, Chief, RCFE



Marcella McCormack, Administrator; Gay Sherman, Office Technician, Social Work Service; Julie Angeloni, Chief, Social Work



Marcella McCormack, Administrator; Mike Chiurco, Groundskeeper, Plant Operations; Ryan Whitman, Groundskeeper, Plant Operations; Ken Vivian, Supervisor Grounds; Hank Miller, Chief of Plant Operations I

April in Paris

By Lou Zauner, Photojournalist

April in Paris? ... well not exactly, but as close as it gets in Yountville!

Thomas Keller and *The French Laundry*, one of the most renowned restaurants in the world; personally invited us, two Home Residents, Ali Grannis and Lou Zauner, as guests for dinner on Tuesday, April 12.



The French Laundry

... well not exactly *personally invited*, but Ali Grannis had been the lucky winner of a drawing to celebrate Yountville Night, and chose Lou Zauner as her escort to pay the \$270 each for the price of dinner.

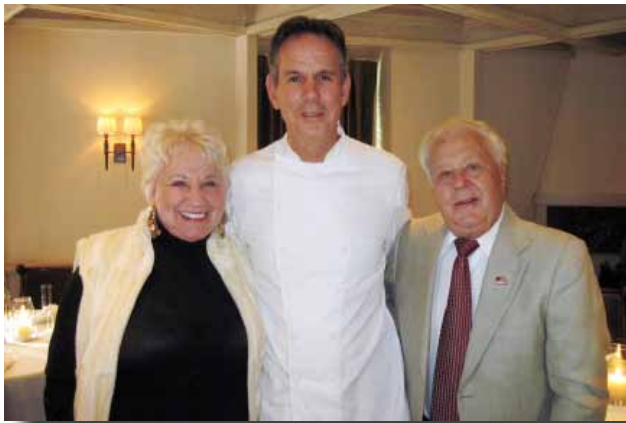
... well not exactly. The original 1994 menu price of \$49 for a seven-course menu was the price for this special occasion which brought the total to \$100 for the two of us. The \$100 was the courtesy of "Max's Pawn Shop" for Lou's watch.

There was no charge for *corkage*. For those of you of ordinary dining, this means you can bring your own bottle of wine and there is no extra charge. We brought a magnum of fine vintage white wine, special reserve.

... well, not exactly. It was an \$11.95 Chardonnay for which Ali paid.

And, of course, the media was there to interview us for fine French cuisine and haute dining comments.

... well, not exactly. Lois Riker, who writes "Out and About" for the *Yountville Sun*, was there and we gave her our names.



Ali Grannis, Thomas Keller, Lou Zauner

Thomas Keller was a delightful host! The evening was a fabulous experience! We sincerely thank Thomas Keller and the French Laundry for an unforgettable Dinner.

... and that's EXACT.



In Memory of Brandy

The Queen Mother of all therapy dogs

Service will take place on May 4, at 11:00 am in the Holderman garden area. Refreshments will follow service. Dogs on leash are welcome.

Brandy
Veterans Home Mascot/Therapy Dog
d. March 21, 2011

Veterans Home Tree Walk

by Nancy Bueno

The “Tree Walk” is the brain child of Bob Heiss, Veterans Home Resident who is Chairman of the Allied Council’s Building and Grounds Committee. His many hours spent on this project came to fruition on April 15, 2011 at a small ceremony near Residential Section C.

Bob spoke about the many people who had helped in this project, but his true dedication was revealed by Marcella McCormack, Adminstrator.

In speeches from Bob and Marcella, we learned about some of the history of the beautiful trees at the Veterans Home. It was history that few know, such as the part Fred Borman played in obtaining 152 species of trees through his friend John McLaren of Golded Gate Park. The canopy of trees that line the entrance to the Home are from the 1939 Treasure Island World Fair.

Another supporter of our trees was Colonel Holderman. It is reported that his friends brought him trees from all over the world. I believe that may be the source of the exotic Bunya Bunya tree from Australia. In a brief conversation



Grace Evens reading Joyce Kilmer's “Trees”

with Yountville Mayor John Dunbar, who attended the ceremony, I mentioned that the Bunya Bunya tree gives me a visual link to my friend in Tasmania who has a Bunya Bunya in her yard.

I know that I’m not alone in feeling ties to these beautiful trees. Everytime I see the majestic tulip trees it reminds me of my childhood in Indiana.

The ceremony included comments from Ed Olson, Chair of the Allied Council, and a beautiful reading of Joyce Kilmer’s “Trees” by Grace Evans who was instrumental in the identification fo the trees and the development of the data base.



Ed Olson,
Marcella
McCormack,
Bob Heiss,
John Dunbar

The tree walk begins at the entrance to the Alameda by Section C and continues in a counter-clockwise manner around the Alameda. A total of 387 trees within 104 species have been identified. When the project is finished, 314 trees will have plaques by them. Along the tree walk, 34 curbside signs will show the location of the trees. These curbside signs will allow viewers to identify trees without having to walk to the individual signs.

Congratulations to Bob Heis and his group of busy workers that have made this project possible.

A Flight Back to History

By Lou Zauner, Photojournalist

Although the exhibit was “Flight,” the Home Residents had to get to the Petaluma Museum by bus on Saturday, April 9, to “land” in an adjacent parking lot before witnessing a remarkable collection of aircraft memorabilia, particularly from the World War II era. The exhibit included movies and an hour-long speech by Colonel Jack Kraut, who recounted his Army Air Corps and Air Force career experiences and the many types of aircraft he was privileged to fly.

The Petaluma Museum itself is a fascinating study of past times in the agricultural and poultry community of the Town of Petaluma. “Believing that he who dies rich, dies disgraced,” steel tycoon Andrew Carnegie gave away much of his wealth. One of his thousands of “Carnegie Free Libraries” was the Petaluma Carnegie Free Library.



One of the first erected in California and one of the most beautiful, its construction completed was in 1906 and is now the Petaluma Museum.

Aside from the special exhibits hosted in the Museum, the permanent displays tell the stories of early settlers who built their community around river transportation and agriculture, mostly the poultry and dairy industries. Visitors can view farm kitchens, rustic poultry houses, and an ornate Victorian parlor typical of a prosperous early family; all a reminder of small-town America.

A special exhibit, “Petaluma’s Salute to American Graffiti,” is dedicated to

that motion picture which was filmed mainly in Petaluma in the summer of 1972. Whereas Petaluma was not competing with Hollywood, a surprising number of films, including “Peggy Sue Got Married,” “Shadow of A Doubt” and “Basic Instinct” found their location in Petaluma.

For a grand afternoon of historic American community experience, Petaluma is an ideal destination. And don’t miss the Museum, an ornate and generous Carnegie legacy.



Access at the Veterans Home

The Veterans Home of California, Yountville, with the California Department of General Services, has reviewed the facility for issues of access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Veterans Home would like to solicit opinions from the users, visitors, organizations, and employees on what they identify as the problem areas for disabled persons. This information helps prioritize areas for construction or change.

Take a moment to write down or email your thoughts to me. Your responses should include, your name, a phone number (If I need more information), a good description

of the location (building, room number, sidewalk location description), and a statement of why this is a problem. Please be specific on your issue.



My email is alan.jessen@cdva.ca.gov My mailing address is: Alan Jessen, ADA Coordinator, Administration, Veterans Home of California Yountville, 100 California Drive, Yountville, CA 94599. I am located in the Administration building.

For organizations, forms can be used. They are available in my office or requested by email.



Napa Valley Museum presents

The 2011 Angel Gala Our Town

This year’s Angel Gala scheduled for April 30th has *been postponed until further notice.*

Wanderlust!

The opening reception of *Wanderlust* is on Friday, May 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Free for members; \$5 for non-members), *Wanderlust* features photographers Jerry Alexander, Suzanne Becker Bronk, Faith Echtermeyer, Chuck O’Rear, Steve Rothfeld, Wes Thollander and Ron Zak. All are professional photographers who share their journeys that include bright green fields in Vietnam, the vitality of Cuban street life, the colorful clothing and tapestries of Guatemalan women weavers, young Tibetan monks in shadowed temples, Chinese acrobats in balanced, practiced pose, and black-and-white portraits of Chinese youth in splendedored or simple clothing.

The Museum invites the public to join the exhibition by entering the Share Your Travels contest. Members of the public are invited to upload their travel photos to the Museum’s Flickr group. Submissions will be judged in two categories- youth (17 and under) and Adult (18 and older). One winner from each category will be chosen by the curator and executive director. Prize includes your photo in the exhibition, a digital camera and family membership to the museum. For contest details, contact kristie@napavalleymuseum.org or visit the museum’s website at www.napavalleymuseum.org.

New Agriculture Trunk Program

Napa Valley Museum in conjunction with the Agriculture in the Classroom program of the Napa County Farm Bureau announce the launch of their new Agriculture Trunk at a free community celebration, Saturday, May 14 from 2-4 p.m. at the Napa Valley Museum, 55 Presidents Circle, Yountville. The public is invited to attend the festivities that will include hands-on farm and agriculture-related activities, and farm animals managed by the Future Farmers Association (FFA) of Napa County.

Created by Michelle Risso, educator with the Napa County Farm Bureau, the Agriculture Trunk is the newest of twelve trunks in the museum’s popular Trunk Program that reaches more than 10,000 schoolchildren throughout the Napa Valley each year.

Coming Sunday, May 22

Tour Ca’Toga, the villa of famed Calistoga artist Carlo Marchiori.

Residential Care Special Activities Sign up early at Activities or call 944-4900

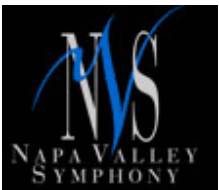
MAY		
Date	Time	Event
2-Mon	10:00am	Shopping: Target, Trader Joes, Whole Foods *MBS
3-Tue	11:30am	Lunch Club: Mary’s Pizza, Cancer Fund Promotion *MBS
6-Fri	8:15am	San Francisco Ferry Trip *MBS
7-Sat	8:30am	Peddlers Fair *LL
7-Sat	8:30am	KY Derby Simulcast, Santa Rosa *MBS
7-Sat	2:00pm	“Frankie and the Fabletones” *GH
7-Sat	5:00pm	AmVets Bingo *Cafe
7-Sat	5:30pm	“A Grand Night for Singing” *MBS
8-Sun	8:30am	Breakfast Club: Joy of Eating, Susuin *MBS
10-Tue	9:00am	Black Diamond Mine Tour *MBS
11-Wed	9:00am	Allied Council *MSC
12-Thu	10:00am	Remembrance Service *Chp
13-Fri	8:30am	Chabot Space & Science Center *MBS
14-Sat	5:30am	Annual Veterans Fishing Trip *MBS
14-Sat	5:00pm	AmVets Bingo *Cafe
15-Sun	7:30am	Napa Sr. Breakfast *MBS
15-Sun	9:00am	CA State Museum *MBS
17-Tue	2:30pm	Taco Tuesday, Compadres *MBS
19-Thu	3:30pm	Napa Museum Free Day for Members
20-Fri	9:15am	Budweiser & Jelly Belly Factory tours *MBS
21-Sat	5:00pm	AmVets Bingo *Cafe
22-Sun	8:15am	“Brass in the Grass” auto and USO type show *MBS
22-Sun	9:00am	Baseball: Rivercats vs. OKC *MBS
23-Mon	10:00am	Shopping: Fairfield Mall *MBS
25-Wed	9:30am	Baseball: Rivercats vs. OKC *MBS
28-Sat	4:30pm	Dinner Club: Golden City Buffet *MBS
28-Sat	5:00pm	AmVets Bingo *Cafe

*Cafe: Cafe area in MSC; *Chp: Main Chapel; *GH: Grant Hall in MSC; *HRA: Hospital Recreation Area; *LL: Lee Lounge in MSC; *LT: Lincoln Theater; *MBS: Main Bus Stop *MCC: Memory Care Center; *MDR: Main Dining Room Bus Stop, *MSC: Member Services Building



Lincoln Theater presents

- Sunday, May 1 at 3 p.m. San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers
- Wednesday, May 4 at 8:00 p.m. Roby Lakatos Ensemble
- Friday, May 6 at 8:00 p.m. It’s for the Kids - a Benefit with Leon Russell. Presented by 15 Foundation and MIMA Music
- Saturday, May 21 at 3:00 p.m. The Ugly Duckling (musical) by Han Christian Andersen California Theatre Center Family Show



Napa Valley Symphony presents

- Sun May 15 3pm Violinist: Chloë Hanslip Conductor: Heiko Mathias Förster Weber: Oberon Overture • Mozart: Symphony No. 38 (Prague) • Brahms: Violin Concerto
- Lincoln Theater Important Announcement: All Home Residents must show their Home ID with their ticket.



Golden Oldies Revue

The “Golden Oldies Revue” featuring “Frankie and the Fable Tones” are coming to Grant Hall on Saturday, May 7th. From 2 – 4 pm, “Frankie and the Fable Tones” will be singing hits of the 50s. Seating is available at 1:30 pm. First come, first serve!

Grapevine Deadlines & Publications

Month	Publication	Deadline
May	May 12	May 2
	May 26	May 16
June	Jun 9	May 30
	Jun 23	Jun 13

Thank you, AMVETS, for your continued support of the Yountville Veterans Home Media Program

